

zygomatic breadth 14·8; breadth across forehead 9·6; inter-orbital breadth 8·3; palatal length 10·5; breadth outside  $m^1$  9. Combined length of five small anterior teeth 4·2; combined length of four molariform teeth ( $p^4-m^3$ ) 4·2; lower tooth-row 8·3 (9·8 in *N. typhlops*); three anterior teeth 2·8; four molariform teeth 4·4.

*Hab.* Wollal, N.W. Australia.

*Type.* Adult female. Skin no. 10442 in West Australian Museum, Perth. Skull transferred by exchange to British Museum, B.M. no. 20. 5. 21. 1. Captured 29th August, 1910.

It is a matter of very great interest to find this anomalous type of marsupial represented by a second species in the far North-west, and the authorities of the Perth Museum are deserving of our gratitude for permitting a comparison to be made of the unique Wollal specimen with the allied form of Central Australia.

## XII.—A new Genus of Echimyinae.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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AMONG some Amazonian mammals sent for determination by the authorities of the Goeldi Museum, Para, there occurs a single specimen of a Spiny-rat collected by Fräulein Dr. E. Suetlage on the River Tapajoz, and this proves to represent a new genus of that most interesting group. It belongs to the series of genera related to *Echimyis* (better known as *Loncheres*), and, like the greater number of them, is modified for an arboreal life. Its dentition is of the special type, called "reduced heptamerons" by Miller, which crops up so frequently among the hystricomorph rodents, but it represents a phase of development not actually found in the Echimyinae, while somewhat similar to that of *Erethizon* and others.

The animal's external appearance is very striking and quite peculiar to itself.

### LONCHOTHRIX, gen. nov.

Pelage highly spinous. Feet short. Tail tufted.

Skull closely similar to that of *Mesomys*.

Dentition above not specialized, in some ways very like a miniature of that of *Erethizon*.

Other external characters described below.

Skull so like that of *Mesomys hispidus* that it is difficult to find any character of more than specific value. The muzzle is broader, the nasals being more parallel-sided, less tapered backwards. Interorbital region broad, with overhanging ledges. Brain-case low, smooth above, much broadened posteriorly. Malar more projected forward anteriorly than in *Mesomys*, about as in *Echimy*s. Palatal foramina longer and more open than in *Mesomys*. Mesopterygoid fossa narrow, reaching forward to the level of the middle of  $m^2$ . Hamular processes of pterygoids narrow, scarcely spatulate at all. Bullæ of average size.

Incisors strong, deep from before backwards, less opisthodont than in allied forms, the incisive angle of the type-specimen  $93^\circ$ .

Upper check-teeth about as broad as long, of medium height, not hypsodont, each with two salient angles internally and four externally, the last external with an indication of subdivision, so that the full number of enamel-plates is, as usual, five. The height of the crests and the depth of the valleys between them very much as in *Erethizon*, to whose teeth those of *Lonchothrix* bear a strong resemblance in miniature, though the hollows are more linear, less broadened antero-posteriorly. Outer valleys penetrating about two-thirds across each tooth. Below the resemblance to *Erethizon* disappears;  $p_4$  has five crests on its inner half,  $m_1$  three and an imperfect fourth,  $m_2$  and  $m_3$  three; all have, as usual, one deep outer notch separating the two salient angles.

Although less specialized, the teeth have also a certain resemblance to those of *Cercomys*.

Genotype. *Lonchothrix emiliae*, sp. n.

It is difficult to say to which of the described forms this striking new genus is most nearly allied. Its short climbing feet and strongly spinous coat give it a general resemblance to *Echimy*s, but its brachyodont molars, as broad as long, are very different from those of either *Echimy*s or any of the genera allied to it—such as *Nelomys* and *Diplothrix*,—nor have they any of the high specializations found in *Dactylomys* and *Kannabateomys*; and its tufted tail is peculiar to itself.

*Lonchothrix emiliae*, sp. n.

Size about as in *Mesomys hispidus*. Pelage excessively

spinous, the spines on the hinder back about 30 mm. in length and attaining 2·3 mm. in breadth; true hair hardly perceptible anywhere, there being only a few short hairs hidden among the bases of the spines, while the covering of the lower surface is also almost wholly spinous. Whisker-bristles very long. General colour above dark brown, punctuated on the shoulders, sides, and rump by buffy. Individually the spines on the dorsal saddle are greyish brown darkening to blackish brown terminally, the lateral and posterior ones with broad buffy tips. On the nape and sides the underlying hairs, which are bright ochraceous buffy, show through the spines and affect the general colour. Under surface dull buffy whitish, a little darker on the chest. Inner sides of arms and legs buffy whitish. Hands and feet dull whitish. Feet comparatively short and broad, as in *Mesomys* and *Echimyis*. Tail long, its proximal two-thirds almost naked, merely with a few minute scattered bristles on it; these lengthen terminally, and at the end there is a conspicuous vertically distichous brush of long coarse dark brown hairs, of which the longest—those of the upper side—attain over 70 mm. in length.

Skull and teeth as above described.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 177 mm.; tail 189; hind foot 30; ear 13.

Skull: greatest length 43; condylo-incisive length 39; zygomatic breadth 25; nasals 12; interorbital breadth 11; mastoid breadth 20·3; palatilar length 14·2; palatal foramina 5; upper cheek-tooth series 8.

*Hab.* (of type). Villa Braga, on the left bank of the Rio Tapajoz, just above the first rapids.

*Type.* Adult male. B.M. no. 20. 6. 4. 1. Original number 142. Collected 8th February, 1917, by Fräulein Dr. E. Sneathlage. Presented by the Goeldi Museum.

This striking and peculiar animal, which was captured by Fräulein Sneathlage herself, forms a discovery of the utmost interest, and I have very great pleasure in connecting her name with it, adding, as it does, another to the many remarkable Amazonian mammals which she has been instrumental in bringing to the notice of zoologists.